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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Statement by His Highness Hamengkubuwono VIII,
Sultan of Jogjakarta

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The following is an unedited statement by the Sultan of Jogjakarta.

STATEMENT BY HIS HIGHNESS HAMENGKUBUWONO VIII, SULTAN OF JOGJAKARTA.

Merdeka!

- A. A letter from the T-Brigade Commander which in courteous terms informed me not to leave the palace, was received by me on December 19, 1948, at 4.30 p.m. I have not received another one which has declared the first one null and void. His Highness the Pakualam has received a similar letter.
- B. Salamin, who has just recently been killed in Jogjakarta, is not a civil servant, and also not the "Wedana" (District Chief) of Jogjakarta. He was a police official. He did not work in the Republic and was well known as a Dutch secret police official.
- C. I have laid down the office of the Head of the Jogjakarta area, because:
- I. I cannot approve of the Dutch action towards Republic.
- II. I cannot work to safeguard the peace and welfare of the people of Jogjakarta, because:
1. Brutal actions of the Dutch towards the people, male and female, youth and the people in general. They have been arrested without any form of process; houses and villages have been burnt down until nothing remains. This was not only done against the Indonesian people, but against Chinese as well. This was reported by the Chinese themselves in Jogjakarta. Their protests have been answered with: Yes, we are at war. The people have to suffer.

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2. Nica money has been circulated. The consequences thereof have caused the people to be in great need as they only possess ORI money. Our economy is in disorder, the people are suffering.
3. As regards myself:
 - a. The Dutch have reported in their paper "Aneka Warta" that I already cooperate with them. That is a lie.
 - b. Officials of the special area of Jogjakarta have been baited to work, and some have been forced thereto without informing me.
 - c. In conversation with one of my Deputies, Stok* has uttered a threat in covered up words, that people from outside will be imported.

All these factors have caused my resignation as Head of the Jogjakarta area, which also counts for the Paku-Alam and all officials and workers of the special Jogjakarta area. The principal point is that before December 19, 1948, the conditions in Jogjakarta were peaceful, and after that, all was in disorder.

- D. On January 18, 1949, starting at 7 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon the Dutch have attacked fiercely the area of Bantul, Imogiri, thereby aided with airplanes. They machine-gunned and bombarded in the direction of afore-mentioned area. They also used paratroopers.

Although we have met with a great many difficulties, but we will fight on from here. I am prepared to face any action the Dutch will use towards me, but it is for the Dutch to understand that my attitude is the result of their actions.

In order that this explanation be used wherever needed, but A and B, I wish to be used for publication.

Tetap merdeka, forever free.

HAMENCKUBUWONO VIII.

Jogjakarta, January 21, 1949

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* [REDACTED] Comment. Stok is the Dutch Civilian Administrator.

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